#### **EVOS Purchase of Interest in Land - Port Valdez** FY2019 Request: \$5,200,000 Reference No: 61852 Project Type: Renewal and Replacement **AP/AL:** Appropriation Category: Natural Resources Location: Valdez House District: Richardson Hwy/East Mat-Su (HD 9) Contact: Fabienne Peter-Contesse **Impact House District:** Richardson Hwy/East Mat-Su (HD 9) **Brief Summary and Statement of Need:** The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council is proposing to fund the purchase of two adjacent parcels of land totaling approximately 184 acres in the Prince William Sound Port Valdez area. The property is adjacent to the Valdez ferry terminal, would provide access to help connect with existing trails in the immediate area, and is near the outlet of a salmon stream. The purchase is being negotiated with the private landowner. Legislative approval is needed in order to complete the purchase. Funding: FY2019 FY2020 FY2021 FY2022 FY2024 Total **1018 EVOSS** \$5,200,000 \$5,200,000 Total: \$5,200,000 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$0 \$5,200,000 Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☐ On-Going 0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill **Operating & Maintenance Costs:** Amount Staff

**Project Development:** 

Ongoing Operating:

One-Time Startup:

Totals:

# **Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

No prior funding history.

### **Project Description/Justification:**

The parcels proposed for purchase, known locally as Meals Hill, rank in the highest priority category for their habitat values for multiple fish and wildlife species. The protection of the Meals Hill property also would benefit recreational and tourism opportunities in Valdez by securing enhanced public access to a unique, locally accessible coastal property with existing trails and within walking distance from the ferry terminal, small boat harbor and downtown Valdez. The EVOS trust fund monies made available for this purchase have strict guidelines governing their use for habitat protection and public recreation. Legislative approval to expend trust fund monies is needed in order to complete the purchase.

# **Accomplishments:**

Purchase of the Port Valdez parcels would ensure permanent habitat protection for spill impacted species that utilize the coastal forest and adjacent nearshore habitats and would help fulfill the restoration purposes of the EVOS Trust Fund. The purchase would also create new recreational and

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tourism opportunities in the City of Valdez by providing public access for activities such as hiking, biking, picnicking, bird and wildlife viewing and other outdoor recreation near downtown Valdez.

Line Item	Amount
1000 - Personal Services	
2000 - Travel	
3000 - Contractual	
4000 - Commodities	
5000 - Capital Outlay	\$5,200,000
7000 - Grants	
Total Request	\$5,200,000